

Committee on the Budget . Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, Chairman

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

6 October 2003

Week of 6 October 2003

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) To Amend the E-Government Act of 2002 With Respect to Rulemaking Authority of the Judicial Conference (H.R. 1303).



H.R. 1303 would amend the E-Government Act of 2003 to allow the identification of redacted material to protect sensitive information contained in documents filed electronically, or converted to electronic form, with the Federal court system. The bill neither increases direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – nor reduces revenue.

2) Condemning Bigotry and Violence Against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans (H.Res. 234).



This resolution has no budget implications.

3) To Amend and Extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (H.R. 2655).



The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 provides nonimmigrant visas for young adults from certain areas of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These individuals work or study in the United States for up to 3 years. The program is currently scheduled to terminate on 1 October 2006; this bill extends it to 1 October 2008. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

4) Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003 (H.R. 2359).

This bill extends the multistate pilot program that aids employers in determining the eligibility of aliens to hold jobs in the United States was expanded. The measure extends the program to all 50 States, at State option. No estimate was prepared at the time of the preparation of this Budget Week, though it is not expected to have any direct spending effects, or to reduce revenue.

5) To Award a Congressional Gold Medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in Recognition of His Many Contributions to the Nation, and to Express the Sense of the Congress That There Should Be a National Day in Recognition of Jackie Robinson (H.R. 1900).



H.R. 1900 would authorize the President to award a posthumous gold medal to Jackie Robinson on behalf of the Congress for his contributions to the Nation. The legislation would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce the gold medal, and - to defray some of the costs - it would authorize the U.S. Mint to strike and sell bronze duplicates of the medal. The bill would cause direct spending to increase by a marginal amount, likely less than \$50,000. This would cause a violation of the budget act by exceeding the allocation to the Financial Services Committee, but not to any significant degree.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003 (H.R. 1985). H.R. 1985 would increase the current limit on the value of loans that the Federal Housing Administration [FHA] can guarantee in certain high-cost areas of the country under six different loan quarantee programs. The bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

7) To Amend Title 44, U.S. Code, to Transfer Authority Over the Individuals Responsible for Preparing Indexes of the Congressional Record to the Public Printer, and for Other Purposes (H.R. 3229).



This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

8) Recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the Official National Museum of Dentistry in the United States (H.J.Res. 52).



This resolution has no budget implications.

9) Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations Between the United States and Bulgaria (H.Res. 355).



This resolution has no budget implications.

10) To Authorize Appropriations for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005 to Carry Out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership [CBFP] Program (H.R. 2264).



The bill would reauthorize appropriations for the Congo Basin Forest Initiative program, which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the Congo region's forests. It funds programs to combat poaching, illegal logging, and other unsustainable practices. The bill will not cause direct spending to increase nor revenue to be decreased.

11) Expressing the Condolences of the House of Representatives in Response to the Murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh (H.Res. 372).



This resolution has no budget implications.

12) Commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its Contributions to Democratic Development Around the World on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy (H.Con.Res. 274).



This resolution has no budget implications.

13) Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 (H.R. 3182).



The bill reauthorizes appropriations for the Adoption Promotion Act through 2007. The program is designed to promote comprehensive child welfare reform. It seeks to ensure that consideration of children's safety is paramount in child welfare decisions, and to provide every child a safe, permanent home. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

14) Supporting the National Railroad Hall of Fame, Inc., of Galesburg, Illinois, in Its Endeavor to Erect a Monument Known as the National Railroad Hall of Fame (H.Res. 342).



This resolution has no budget implications.

15) **Veterans Benefits Act of 2003** (H.R. 2297).



H.R. 2297 reduces direct spending for certain

veterans' programs – specifically housing, compensation, pensions, burial, and readjustment benefits – and for uniformed services retirement benefits. The reduction totals \$63 million in 2004, about \$135 million over the 2004-08 period, and about \$300 million over the 2004-2013 period. The savings are produced by lower subsidy costs (the estimated long-term costs to the government of veterans home loan guarantees), fewer defaults in the guaranteed loan program, and a higher level of recovery on defaulted properties.

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Budget Week Page 2 16) Government Network Security Act of 2003 (H.R. 3159).



This bill would require the head of each Federal agency

to develop and implement a plan to protect the security and privacy of computers and networks of the Federal Government from the risks posed by peer-to-peer file sharing. Though the bill may marginally increase administrative expenses, it does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

17) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 339 Hicksville 🦰 Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building" (H.R. 2452). This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.



18) Recognizing the Importance of Ralph Bunche as One of the Great Leaders of the United States, the First African-American Nobel Peace Prize Winner, an Accomplished Scholar, a Distinguished Diplomat, and a Tireless Campaigner of Civil Rights for People Throughout the World (H.Con.Res. 71).

This resolution has no budget implications.

19) District of Columbia Military Retirement Equity Act of 2003 (H.R. 3054).



This bill amends the Policemen and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act to permit counting military service toward the retirement annuities of certain current and former employees of the District of Columbia and the United States Government. Specifically, it would apply to current and former members of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division. Those persons could count their military service, if any, toward the calculation of retirement annuities payable to them, upon payment of a contribution by them. At the time of publication, a cost estimate was unavailable. Nevertheless, the member payments and the resultant retirement benefits are expected to affect direct spending and revenue. A preliminary estimate by the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] is that enacting this bill will increase direct spending by approximately \$1 million in fiscal year 2004, and possibly generate a similar increase in revenue, which could result in a net effect of zero for fiscal year 2004. The bill could have a net cost of \$5 million over the fiscal year 2004-08 period. Enacting this bill would cause the Committee on Government Reform to exceed its 302(a) allocation for first- and 5-year totals.

20) Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (H.Res. 262). This resolution has no budget implications.



21) To Authorize the President to Issue to the Late William "Billy" Mitchell a Posthumous Commission as Major General, United States Army (H.R. 2755).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

22) To Amend Title 10, United States Code, to Exempt Certain Members of the Armed Forces from the Requirement to Pay Subsistence Charges While Hospitalized (H.R. 2998).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

23) To Provide for Expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (H.R. 408). This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.



24) To Amend the Mineral Leasing Act to Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Issue Separately, for the Same Area, a Lease for Tar Sand and a Lease for Oil and Gas (H.R. 3062).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

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Budget Week Page 3 25) To Require the Conveyance of Certain National Forest System Lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to Provide for the Use of the Proceeds from Such Conveyance for National Forest Purposes (H.R. 708).



This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 1474) – Conference Report.

Committee: Financial Services

Summary: This bill establishes the circumstances and guidelines under which a substitute check

may be considered the legal equivalent of an original check. To be so considered, the substitute check must accurately represent all the information on the front and back of the original check as of the time the original check was truncated. It must also bear the legend: "This is a legal copy of your check. You can use it the same way you would use

the original check."

Cost: Though a final CBO estimate was not available, the Budget Committee does not

anticipate the bill have any effect on direct spending. By increasing some costs at the Federal Reserve, the amount of revenue the Federal Government receives back from the operations of the Reserve may be reduced by a small amount. This amount of revenue is not expected to cause revenue to be less than that permitted by the budget resolution.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003 (H.R. 3108).

Committee: Education and the Workforce/Ways and Means

Summary: The bill substitutes the 30-year Treasury bond rate with a corporate bond index rate as

the rate companies must use in determining their pension contributions to employee pension plans. These rates are included in requirements under the Employee Retirement

Income Security Act. The rate would stay in place for 3 years.

Cost: No CBO estimate had been prepared separately for this measure, but it was included in a

separate measure, H.R. 1776 – the Pension Preservation and Savings Expansion Act – and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the provision would increase revenue by \$2.185 billion in fiscal year 2004 and \$5.145 billion over 5 years. It is expected that, by changing the rate, employers may reduce the amounts put into pension plans and

therefore take less in the way of business deductions by corporations.

Budget Act: This bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Prepared by The Committee on the Budget